



News Release

US Army Corps of Engineers®

Mississippi Valley Division/
Mississippi River Commission
cemvd-rb-mp@mvd02.usace.army.mil

Release #: 05-04

For Release: March 7, 2005

Contact: Public Affairs Office

Phone: 601-634-5760 / 7783

Wilbanks promoted to New Orleans District Support Team Chief

VICKSBURG, MISS., March 7, 2005 – Mr. Rayford Wilbanks, lead economist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Mississippi Valley Division, was recently promoted.

Mr. Wilbanks was promoted to Team Leader of the New Orleans District Support Team, Leader of the Planning and Policy Community of Practice, and Leader of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Ecosystem Restoration Center of Expertise.

He is responsible for supervising a multi-disciplined team leading efforts to support, facilitate and coordinate program and project execution missions of the New Orleans District. The New Orleans District's \$330,695,000 Fiscal Year 2005 program includes functions related to flood damage reduction, inland navigation, shoreline stabilization, ecosystem restoration, environmental infrastructure and multipurpose projects for hydropower, flood control, water supply, water quality, fish and wildlife conservation, and recreation.

Mr. Wilbanks will also serve as the division's Planning and Policy Community of Practice coordinator to ensure efficient, effective project execution through interpretation and application of planning practices and policies by the division's six district offices that are responsible for utilization of water and related land resources to meet existing and long-term needs within the Mississippi River valley.

His responsibilities as the leader of the Ecosystem Restoration Center of Expertise include providing environmental and ecosystem restoration planning services, training, model development and review and technical support across the division. The Mississippi Valley Division's boundary encompasses 370,000 square miles and portions of 12 states bordering the 2,348-mile Mississippi River.

Mr. Wilbanks holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in agricultural economics from Mississippi State University. He is also a graduate of the Corps' 11-month Planners and Project Managers Program in Washington, D.C., the Department of Army Leadership Development Program, the Army Management Staff College and is a recipient of the Corps of Engineers Planning Excellence Award.

Mr. Wilbanks, a native of Carthage, Miss., is married to the former Pam Kilpatrick of Philadelphia, Miss. They have one son, Jason of Laurel, Miss, and one grandson, Tristan. Rayford is the son of Dayle and Johnnie Faye Wilbanks of Carthage.